

CLEAN VERSION OF CLAIMS

B3
7. A breathable article according to claim 40, wherein the spacer members project from the second major face of the sheet and have a sufficient resilience that the perforations of the sheet remain open during normal use and the second side of the article is not normally pressed against the surface.

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8. A breathable article according to claim 39, wherein the spacer members are discontinuous.

9. A breathable article according to claim 39, wherein the spacer members are continuous.

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15. A breathable article according to claim 39, wherein the sheet further includes a hollow depression or chamber provided in the first major face of the sheet in the region of each perforation.

18. A breathable article according to claim 15, wherein each dome projection corresponds with a hollow depression or chamber of the first major face of the sheet.

19. A breathable article according to claim 39, when permanently or releasably affixed to the surface.

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20. A breathable article according to claim 39, being a cushioning or lining article for locating between a person or animal and a surface selected from the surfaces of apparel and clothing and portions thereof, seats and portions thereof, wheelchairs and portions thereof, headwear, footwear, body protectors, body armour, sports shields, bedding, upholstery coverings, orthopaedic casts, orthopaedic supports, orthopaedic hard braces, and other articles against which the body of the person or animal, or a portion thereof, can be compressed in use.

21. A breathable article according to claim 39, being a medical or veterinary dressing.

27. A breathable fabric according to claim 41, wherein the spacer members project by a distance which is substantially the same across the relevant major face of the sheet.

28. A breathable fabric according to claim 41, wherein the spacer members are discontinuous.

B7 29. A breathable fabric according to claim 41, wherein the spacer members are continuous.

B8 38. A breathable fabric according to claim 41, wherein each dome projection corresponds with a hollow depression or chamber in the first major face of the sheet.

39. A breathable article for disposition in use between part of a human or animal body and a surface, said article comprising a sheet having a first side directed in use towards said body part and a second side directed in use towards said surface, said sheet having perforations provided therethrough, the first and second sides being in air flow communication with each other through said perforations and each of said perforations defining an internal chamber having an outward dome-like projection providing a concavity directed toward said first side and to surround an adjacent portion of the perforation, said dome-like projection being flexible and providing a resilient restoring force against opening of said portion of the perforation due to increase in pressure within said chamber, said second side having spacer members associated therewith and located laterally away from the dome-like projections to permit flexure of the dome-like projections when said article is in contact with said surface.

40. A breathable article according to Claim 39, wherein the spacer members project by a distance that is substantially the same across said second side of the sheet to permit the article to conform in use to the shape of the person or animal or the surface.

41. A breathable fabric comprising a sheet having first and second major faces and formed of a substantially impermeable material having perforations provided therethrough,

each of said perforations defining an internal chamber having an outward dome-like projection providing a concavity directed toward said first major face and to surround an adjacent portion of the perforation, said dome-like projection being flexible and providing a resilient restoring force against opening of said portion of the perforation due to increase in pressure within said chamber, characterised in that there is further provided a plurality of spacer members which are located laterally away from the dome-like projections and project from said second major face between perforations of the sheet such as to permit flexure of the dome-like projections when said article is in contact with a surface.